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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

1511 K Street, NW, Suite 518
Washington, DC 20005
March 12, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt,

We are writing on an urgent matter of great importance to our organizations and to the entire nonprofit community. We request that you establish nonprofit educational rates for the leasing of cable channels, an action now under consideration in Docket MM 92-266.

The cable leased-access provisions of the 1984 and 1992 Cable Acts were just part of many government policies designed to encourage diversity of voices in our nation's media and communications system. And as in other mediums, special attention was paid to fostering noncommercial and educational outlets and services.

Special rates for nonprofit organizations for cable's multichannel video services is essential to ensure full public access to the panoply of emerging communications technologies. We believe that only with targeted policies ensuring access to this crucial distribution system will sufficient diversity of educational programming follow, such as local, regional and national channels focusing on literacy, health, the environment, consumer awareness, parenting, science, and culture. Without low-cost access, the ability of noncommercial programming to reach a national audience will be seriously hamstrung, to the detriment of the public's interest in having a diversity of voices and choices.

Our organizations and others provide critical services to the public, but cannot afford to compete with commercial entities. By granting favorable rates to nonprofit educational groups for access to cable systems, you will help us as we strive to enhance the level of civic engagement in communities across the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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CABLE

Advocates for Children and Youth
Alliance for Community Media
American Association of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Asian American Arts Alliance
Association of America's Public Television Stations
Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers
Benton Foundation
Boston Computer Society
Boston Film/Video Foundation
Catalyst Project
Center for Media Education
Center for Media Literacy
Center for Alcohol Advertising
Center for Public Interest Law
Center for a New Democracy
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Express
Citizens for Media Literacy
Coalition of Women's Art Organizations
Communications Consortium

Communications Workers of America
Community Technology Centers' Network
Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility
Consumer Federation of America
Cultural Environment Movement
Delaware Association of Nonprofit Agencies
Family Resource Coalition
Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
Government Accountability Project
Institute for the Study of Civic Values
Libraries for the Future
Media Democracy in Action Consortium
National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
National Association for Family and Community Education
National Association of Artists' Organizations
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of the Deaf
National Association of School Psychologists
National Campaign for Freedom of Expression
National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History
National Federation of Community Broadcasters
National Urban League

Newton Television Foundation

OMB Watch

Parents' Choice

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

Special Libraries Association

Telecommunications for the Deaf

The Television Project

The Women's Center

Women's National Democratic Club

Yale University Family Television Research and Consultation Center

cc:

Commissioner Andrew Barrett, FCC

Commissioner Rachelle Chong, FCC

Commissioner Susan Ness, FCC

Commissioner James Quello, FCC

Meredith Jones, Chief, Cable Services Bureau, FCC